

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 2-6, 8, 9 and 14 have been withdrawn from consideration; rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,145,648 to Teichman et al.; rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Teichman et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,976,306 to Davis et al.; and rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Teichman et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,762,213 to Nowicki.

Applicants have amended claim 14. Claims 2-6, 8, 9, 11 and 13-15 are pending in the patent application, of which claims 11 and 13-15 are presented for examination.

At the outset, Applicants note that claim 14 has been amended to change its dependency from canceled claim 10 to claim 13. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request consideration and examination of claim 14.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Teichman et al. Claim 13 is not anticipated by Teichman et al. because the reference fails to teach each and every element of the claim. In particular, Teichman et al. at least fails to disclose the claimed combination including an optical module carrier for holding an optical module having an optical device.

The Examiner contends that element 13 in Figs. 1a-1f of Teichman et al. corresponds to the claimed optical module. Element 13, however, is a conveyor for carrying printed circuit

boards (PCBs) (col. 3, lines 5-12 of Teichman et al.) The PCBs of Teichman et al. have electrical wirings formed thereon or "artwork" (col. 1, lines 66-67), but lack any optical components. Clearly, the PCBs do not constitute an optical module having an optical device. Accordingly, Teichman et al. fails to disclose any feature resembling an optical module carrier, as required by claim 13, that holds the optical module having the optical device disposed thereon. Claim 13 is therefore allowable over the applied reference.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Teichman et al. in view of Davis et al. The Examiner asserts that Teichman et al. discloses each of the features of claim 11, except a silicone based coating. Applicants note, however, that claim 11, like claim 13 discussed above, recites an optical module carrier that holds an optical module. As further discussed above, Teichman et al. fails to teach or suggest this claimed feature. Moreover, even if Davis et al. suggests a silicon coating, as proposed by the Examiner, such teachings would fail to overcome the above described deficiencies of Teichman et al. Claim 11, therefore, is allowable over the Examiner's proposed combination of Teichman et al. and Davis et al..

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Teichman et al. in view of Nowicki. Claim 15 depends from claim 13 and further requires a plurality of springs, among other limitations. The Examiner contends that Nowicki teaches "spring[s] for a roller" (Office Action at page 5). Applicants

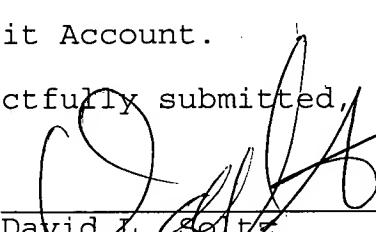
respectfully submit, however, that even if Nowicki and Teichman et al. were combinable in the manner proposed by the Examiner, the resulting combination of teachings would still fail to suggest an optical module carrier that holds an optical module, as recited in independent claim 13. Claim 15, therefore, is allowable at least due to its dependence from claim 13.

Since newly renumbered claim 14 also depends from claim 13, Applicants submit that claim 14 is allowable at least due to its dependence from claim 13.

Please charge a three-month extension fee of \$930.00 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(3) to our Deposit Account No. 50-0308. If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 14, as follows:

14. (Amended) The apparatus of claim [10] 13, wherein said optical module carrier further comprises:

vertical pillars for securing said optical module on the top surface of the optical module carrier.